

Professor Daniel Fernández developed this book proposal assignment for his course, "Latin American Literature in Translation" (SPA/LAC 233).

Final Assignment: Book Proposal Request

Dear Professor X (student's last name),

I am writing to you in order to invite you to assume the editorship of an anthology of Latin American literature that is set to be published in October of 2007. As a distinguished member of the Latin American Literature in Translation Community (LAC/SPA 233) you are in a unique and privileged position to bring this project to fruition.

As the editor of this book you would be responsible for selecting the texts to be included in the anthology. The conciseness of the collection will be a major challenge: because of budgetary constraints, it is only possible to include four of the titles in your LAC/SPA 233 catalogue. These pieces are to be selected according to a set of clear and coherent criteria of your own choosing: you can limit your perspective to a specific topic such as the literary representation of gender relations, political violence, social problems, cultural issues, etc. In short, what part or what vision of Latin America do you think is important to be represented? What ideas, realities or representations are you hoping to transmit through this selection?

Bear in mind that as an editor you will be a translator of Latin American culture, which is a great responsibility. In essence, your function is to translate your culture from your own point of view to people who do not speak Spanish and who are outsiders to Latin America.

If you wish to undertake this project, please submit a formal book proposal for the Board's consideration by Monday, May 5, 2007. We ask that, in writing the proposal, you adhere to the set of guidelines provided. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at casa.verde@lehman.cuny.edu.

Sincerely,

Dr. Simão Bacamarte
President
Casa Verde Publishers

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Format

5-6 typed pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman (size 12) font, one-inch margins on all sides.

Structure of Proposal

Part I / Introduction:

- Engage the reader effectively and prepare him/her for what will be discussed in the pages that follow.
- Present the focus of anthology: set forth the theme, topic, or perspective taken and its justifications.
- Explain the purpose and the importance of the book being proposed.

Part II / Discussion of Texts:

- Discuss each piece separately; a paragraph or two for each is sufficient.
- Give a brief description for each text (who wrote it? is it a poem? a short story?)
- Avoid plot summary; instead write about characters, settings, themes, issues, or other aspects you deem relevant to your specific focus.
- For each text consider the following questions:
 - What is so remarkable about the text?
 - Why is it important to include it in the anthology?
 - What does it show us, the readers?

Part III / Synthesis:

- Make connections between the texts:
 - What do they share in common?
 - How do they differ from one another?
 - Why do they belong together under a single title?

Part IV / Conclusion:

- Strive to be persuasive (you need to make the board understand the importance of what you are proposing):
 - Why is it essential that the collection be published?
 - What would be the contribution made by the appearance of the anthology?
 - In sum, what is it that you are offering and why is your offer desirable?